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TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN FUNDY NATIONAL PARK IN 1990

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly monitor national parks from May to October for forest insect and disease conditions.

The following is a brief report on some of the insects and diseases found throughout Fundy National Park in 1990, and that are likely to recur in 1991.

BALSAM FIR TIP BLIGHT is easily recognized by the presence of pinkish-red new shoots on balsam fir in July. These shoots shrivel, wilt, and turn brown in the fall. The disease was present throughout the Park, causing light to moderate damage on scattered trees. Damage was light but most common along Hastings Road, Point Wolfe Road, Devils Half Acre, Junction Laverty Road, and Shepody Road; moderate at Herring Cove Road and at Junction Route 114, and Shepody Road near Wolf Lake.

HEMLOCK LOOPER, mainly a defoliator of balsam fir, is a very messy feeder, eating only part of the needles. The damaged needles then turn red. Loopers can completely strip and kill a tree in one year, if population levels are high enough. Flights of high numbers of light brown moths, observed near ground level in balsam fir stands during August and early September, also signal this insect's presence.

Populations and damage by this insect are on the increase in New Brunswick. In the Park, although only a few larvae were collected, light trap catches are up noticeably (1988-29; 1989-43; 1990-64). No defoliation has yet been found in the Park, but the potential for defoliation remains.

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GYPSY MOTH is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northeastern United States. It is now established in southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. Female gypsy moths are flightless, making the spread of this pest largely dependent on transport of eggs or other life stages on cars and trailers. This is why the National Parks, with an influx of vehicles from many areas, are a potential entry site for gypsy moth. Visitors to the Parks are asked to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel. Gypsy moth larvae, when full grown, are large and hairy and are 3.5-6.0 cm long when full grown in late July, with five pairs of blue dots and six pairs of red dots along the back.

Park personnel monitored 25 gypsy moth pheromone traps in 1990 - 15 adult males were caught, one more than was caught in 1989. No other life stages of gypsy moth have ever been found in the Park.

SPEARMARKED BLACK MOTH, a black caterpillar that folds leaves of white birch evenly to form a pocket, was present at high numbers and caused moderate and severe browning of entire stands of white birch along Foster Brook and light browning on scattered trees along Herring Cove Road.

PORCUPINE DAMAGE - damaged and dead balsam fir and white spruce continue to be noticeable throughout the Park. The red trees and yellowish white stems where bark has been chewed off are indicators of porcupine attack. Trees and branches die when completely girdled. Attacked trees are common throughout the Park, but are most noticeable along Point Wolfe and Herring Cove Road and along Rt. 114, near the Park entrance.

FALL WEBWORM, which constructs nests of white silky material, often covering small shrubs and trees, is visible throughout August and early September on a variety of hosts, mainly along roadsides and in fields. It was present at scattered locations but most common at Point Wolfe.

WAX FILAMENT SCALE, a tiny scale insect that feeds on the stems of birch and beech trees, was common on white birch at a birch study plot at Point Wolfe.

Other insect and disease pests noted by FIDS staff included **birch casebearer**, found at trace levels along Point Wolfe Road, Laverty Road and Hastings Road; **birch leafrollers** caused trace and light defoliation at Point Wolfe and were also present along Herring Cove Road, Devils Half Acre, and Laverty Auto Trail; **yellow witches broom** which was found on numerous balsam fir trees throughout Park; **needle cast** of red spruce, light on red spruce along Hastings Road; **spruce beetle** which continued to kill mature white spruce trees along Shepody Road; **sirococcus shoot blight**, present at junction of Herring Cove and Point Wolfe Road and near Park Headquarters, and which continues to damage many red pine trees at the above locations.

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